

Liberty Road, originally an indian trail, later "located" and named the former by an Act of the General Assembly accomodates Wesley Chapel, M.E. Church, a marker of Methodist Episcopal history in southern Carroll County. The small uncoursed stone 3-bay structure was built on land given for the express purpose of constructing a Methodist worship house. The congregation has since 1949 worshipped with Wesley-Freedom Church, south/west of this chapel.

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

## 1. Name

historic Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church

and/or common Wesley Chapel

## 2. Location

street & number Liberty and Johnsville Roads n/a not for publication

city, town Eldersburg X vicinity of congressional district Fifth

state Maryland code 24 county Carroll code 013

## 3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<u>X</u> building(s)	<u>X</u> private	<u>X</u> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>X</u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>X</u> not applicable	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
		<u>  </u> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<u>  </u> private residence
			<u>X</u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Wesley-Freedom United Methodist Church  
c/o The Reverend Perry Miller

street & number 1011 Liberty Road

city, town Sykesville    vicinity of state Maryland 21784

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street & number

city, town Baltimore state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Maryland Historical Trust  
Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?    yes X no

date 1979    federal X state    county    local

depository for survey records 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

CARR-167

**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**DESCRIPTION SUMMARY:

Wesley Chapel is a small stone church built in 1822 to serve an early Methodist congregation near Eldersburg in Carroll County, Maryland. The gable-roofed building is constructed of uncoursed rubble, one story high, three bays wide by three deep, and faces Liberty Road (Maryland Route 26) to the south. The principal entrance is centered in the south gable facade and consists of paneled double-leaf doors set within a paneled reveal and surmounted by a transom. The flanking bays hold 12/12 sash; a smaller 12/12 window above the entrance lights a gallery. The west elevation has three evenly-spaced 12/12 windows; on the east, a central entrance identical to that on the south is flanked by 12/12 sash. A three-sided, hip-roofed apse projects from the north gable; this facade is finished in stucco which is scored to simulate ashlar. The interior consists of a single large barrel-vaulted nave, with the pulpit located in a lower vault in the apse; a gallery spans the rear of the nave, reached by a winder stair in the southeast corner. The building retains considerable original trim and hardware, including the pulpit and pulpit rail, gallery, stair and balustrade, paneled doors, two open rim locks and a cast-iron box lock. A small cemetery provides the setting for the chapel. A modern residential subdivision surrounds the property.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Wesley Chapel is located on the north side of Liberty Road (Maryland Route 26), just west of the center of Eldersburg in Carroll County, Maryland. A small cemetery provides the immediate setting for the building. The property is surrounded by a modern residential subdivision.

The chapel was constructed in 1822 of uncoursed rubble masonry. It stands one story high, three bays wide by three deep, and faces south, with the entrance located in the central bay of the south gable facade. The entrance consists of double-leaf doors with three panels each, surmounted by a transom, set in a paneled reveal. Each of the flanking bays holds a 12/12 window comprising modern replacement sash within the original beaded surround. A smaller 12/12 window aligned above the entrance lights the gallery; here the surround and sliding frames are original, while the muntins are replacements. All the openings are surmounted by lintels finished in mortar and painted to simulate jack arches; this treatment probably coincided with a recent repointing of the building. (A ca. 1922 photograph appears to show solid stone lintels above these openings.) Large blocks at the corners suggest quoins. The marble cornerstone in the southeast corner which reads "Wesley Chapel M. E. Church - 1822 - Freedom, Carroll County, Md." probably dates from the 1922 Centennial celebration.

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National Park Service

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Continuation sheet Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church  
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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

The east elevation is three bays wide, with an entrance identical to that of the south gable in the central bay, flanked on either side by 12/12 windows. The outsides of the double-leaf doors have been clad in sheet metal. Windows are replacement sash in original beaded surrounds. A modern cellar entrance is located between the central and southern bays, and an exterior brick chimney rises between the central and northern bays.

The west elevation has a 12/12 window in each of its three evenly-spaced bays. As on the south and east facades, windows hold replacement sash in original surrounds, retain cast-iron shutter pintles, and are topped by simulated jack arches. A brick exterior chimney with a corbeled cap rises between the northern and central bays.

The north elevation features a three-sided projecting apse with a hipped roof. The diagonal facets of this projection retain original 12/12 sash windows. This elevation is finished in stucco which is scored to simulate ashlar.

The chapel's gable roof is clad in asphalt shingles.

The exterior retains a high degree of integrity. Maintenance requirements have resulted in the repointing of the masonry and the replacement of original window sash with appropriate wooden replicas with 12/12 lights. Installation of a modern heating plant required the excavation of a partial basement and the provision of an entrance for access; two slender brick chimneys serve the furnace.

The interior consists of a single large barrel vaulted space occupied by the nave, with the pulpit located in a lower vault in the north apse.

The pulpit atop a raised platform of vertical beaded boards within the arch of the apse, is presumed to be original. It has four plain recessed panels and a cove cornice, and is flanked on either side by a short balustrade with turned newel, square balusters, and oval-section rail. The chancel retains its original wide-plank flooring, beaded baseboard, and windows within beaded recesses. The edge of the arch is decorated with a single plaster bead. Three iron pintles presumably for lighting fixtures, survive in the pulpit area.

The Communion rail, in front of the pulpit, is a Victorian addition with blocky turned newels and heavy balusters. The present pews, with a Gothic-influenced profile, were probably originally installed in the adjacent Wesley-Freedom United Methodist Church, constructed in 1868. Three grain-painted pews of simpler profile survive in the gallery of the chapel and may represent the original furniture.

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GENERAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

A gallery spans the rear of the nave, its forward edge intruding into the openings of the southernmost windows. Two tapered, beaded posts support the gallery. The cross beam has a beaded lower edge, and the closed "balustrade" of vertical beaded boards is defined at top and bottom by a heavy complex molding. The area between the gallery rail and ceiling has been enclosed in recent years with light framing and wall board; plans call for removal of this partition in the immediate future.

A winder stair in the southeast corner of the nave affords access to the gallery; the stair retains its original turned newel, square balusters, and handrail which are identical to those in the chancel. Square posts with chamfered edges mark the turnings of the stair. The side of the gallery facing the stair has been enclosed with a light partition, replacing its original open balustrade; plans call for the restoration of this feature. The gallery retains its original wide-plank flooring, and fragments of late-19th century wallpaper with a classical architectural motif. In the nave below the stair is a closet whose batten door of vertical beaded boards is hung on cast butt hinges and closed with a keyhole-shaped open rim lock. Other significant interior features include the cast-iron box lock on the south entrance, and a large keyhole-shaped open rim lock securing the east doors. Doors feature slightly-raised panels framed by ogee-astragal moldings, and are set in original beaded architraves with ogee-astragal backbands.

The interior has been subjected to relatively few alterations. The walls have been furred out and refinished with drywall, which has concealed the original baseboards and interior window trim (except on the two windows in the apse). The sanctuary has been refloored with narrow hardwood flooring, over which wall-to-wall carpeting was installed very recently. As previously described, a light partition encloses the gallery.

## 8. Significance

CARR-167

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1821-1822 Builder/Architect John Elder

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Applicable Criteria: A, C

#### SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY:

Applicable exception: A

Wesley Chapel is significant for its architecture, and for its historical association with the development of Methodism in Maryland. The building has remained substantially unaltered since its construction in 1822, and presents a significant example of early-nineteenth century vernacular church architecture in the rural Piedmont region of Maryland. Characteristic features include rubble masonry construction and simple massing, coupled with restrained exterior and interior detailing. The paneled doors which retain their original hardware and the pulpit, pulpit rail, and stair balustrade are especially noteworthy. Wesley Chapel derives additional significance from its association with the development of Methodism in Carroll County. The Methodist movement in America began in Carroll County, Maryland about 1760. Wesley Chapel was erected to serve one of the earliest Methodist congregations in the county, reputedly organized in 1780. The present building reflects the efforts of a mature, established group. The Wesley Chapel is the oldest unaltered Methodist house of worship remaining in the County; one extant building, the Stone Chapel at New Windsor, predates it (1783) but has been extensively altered over time.

#### HISTORY AND SUPPORT:

The development of Methodism in America began in Carroll County, Maryland, about 1760, with class meetings held on the site of the Robert Strawbridge House in New Windsor. The congregation responsible for the construction of Wesley Chapel was organized in 1780.

Several of the founders of Wesley Chapel attended Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Eldersburg before the Revolutionary War. At that time, Methodists were members of the Episcopal Church who followed the Methodist doctrine of John Wesley. When the Rector of Holy Trinity fled to England in 1775 because he was labeled a Tory, it is believed Methodist lay leaders continued to use the church, as no Episcopal services were held at that time. In 1780, the Episcopal Church again attempted to utilize Holy Trinity for services, but the residents, impressed by the preaching of itinerant Methodist ministers and lay leaders, refused to support these efforts, and Holy Trinity was closed.

The first record of a Methodist class involving an original Trustee of Wesley Chapel dates to 1780 when a class was organized in Daniel Elliott's home in Delaware Bottom. In 1788, a second class was organized at the home of William Beasman, located closer to the present town of Eldersburg. Documents indicate that from 1803 until at least 1815, Methodists in the Eldersburg area met at Adam's Garden, the home of Robert Shipley, located behind the present site of the Eldersburg Improvement Association on Maryland Route 32.

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

It is assumed that during this period a need was felt by the Shipley class members for a permanent place of worship. At the quarterly meeting of the Baltimore Circuit, held at Stone Chapel on October 16, 1813, the following notation was made in the Steward's Book: "Application being made to this Conference to appoint Trustees to take a Deed for land from Nicholas Harding to Build a Preaching House on, Have accordingly appointed Elisha Bennett, Daniel Elliott, Samuel Gore, Robert Shipley of Adam, and William Baseman to act as such." We have not yet found proof of purchase of land for this meeting house, but oral tradition confirms the known location of an early log structure called "Antioch" which was north of the present site of Wesley Chapel. It is felt the Methodists used this building as a meeting house until 1821.

Several changes had occurred by 1821 that caused a need for a new meeting house. The area was no longer a wilderness dotted by a few farms. The towns of Eldersburg and Freedom had formed, populated by tradesmen and merchants. Methodist converts had significantly increased in numbers following a decline in the late 1700's. A road to the west and to the markets of Baltimore was developing. By 1815, a company was formed to build a turnpike to Frederick and Hagerstown. This road, now known as Liberty Road, was to be built along an original Indian trail which had been used as a road when the land was settled and which passed through the Freedom area. The area around Eldersburg and Freedom was active and growing.

On July 20, 1821, Helena and John Welsh conveyed to Elisha Bennett, Daniel Elliott, Matthew Chambers, Lewis Shipley, Samuel Gore, Nicholas Harding, and John Elder one acre of land, part of a tract called Perserverance. This land was given in trust that they erect a house of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopalals and no others.

Construction of the church took place in 1821 or 1822. Chairman of the Building Committee was Reverend Samuel Gore, a local lay preacher for over 50 years whose grave is in the Wesley Chapel Cemetery. The contractor for the church was John Elder, and the cabinet work was likely done by Benjamin Forester, who helped with the building of Springfield Presbyterian Church in 1837. When the church pulpit was repaired approximately 1920, the following inscription was found on a board: "John Elder, Contractor, I am 24 years old today, June 24, 1822, Benjamin Forest."

In addition to the people already mentioned, the following prominent members of the congregation are buried in Wesley Cemetery:

Joseph Steele, who was appointed as one of the first county commissioners in 1837 when Carroll County was formed and who also served on the committee to determine the nine election districts in the county;

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

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National Park Service

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HISTORY AND SUPPORT (continued)

Warren L. Little, the first master of the Freedom Lodge of the A.F. & A.M. #112 and the last proprietor of a tavern-inn, erected in 1769 in Freedom and which served travelers not only during the Revolutionary War but also during the westward migration in the 1800's;

Col. Peter Little, who was a member of Congress from the Baltimore District and a zealous officer in the militia, who served in the War of 1812, and whose family settled in the area before 1765;

and, Margaret Elder, wife of John Elder, founder of Eldersburg, whose son, John, is also buried at the Chapel.

Many notable ministers served Wesley Chapel during this early period, including Job Guest, Wesley Chapel's first minister; Richard Brown, prominent camp meeting manager and conference steward for seventeen years; and Henry Slicer, who went on to serve as Chaplain of the United States Congress for seven sessions.

Prior to the Civil War, a schism developed within the Chapel, and a group of Southern sympathizers refusing to free their slaves were barred from entering Wesley Chapel by members holding rifles. After meeting in homes and the Masonic Hall for several years, these Southern sympathizers organized in June 1866 as the Freedom Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

This schism resulted in the 1868-1869 construction of a new church building located across Liberty Road and a few hundred feet to the east of Wesley Chapel. Known as Freedom Methodist Episcopal Church, South, this congregation worshiped independently until 1943, when it merged with the membership of Wesley Chapel to form Wesley-Freedom Methodist Church. The joint congregation alternated services between the two buildings for several years and then came to use the Chapel mainly for youth education programs and the Freedom building for Sunday services. The Freedom building was extensively renovated in 1949.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Scharf, J. Thomas. History of Western Maryland. Philadelphia, 1882; rpt. Baltimore: Regional Publishing Co. 1968.

Steele, Guy W. Centennial of Wesley Chapel M. E. Church, September 24, 1922. n.p., n.d.

Stewards' Books, 1794-1815. Lovely Lane Museum, Baltimore, Maryland.

Baltimore Sun, Democratic Advocate, Sykesville Herald. (Various articles).

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 2 acresQuadrangle name Finksburg, Md.Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	118	331	020	43	63	6110
	Zone	Easting	Northing			
C						
E						
G						

B						
	Zone	Easting	Northing			
D						
F						
H						

**Verbal boundary description and justification :** Boundaries are depicted on the attached map.  
**Boundary Justification:** The nominated property encompasses the resource within a small cemetery which provides its historic setting. The property is bounded on the north, east, and west by a modern residential subdivision and on the south by a major thoroughfare (MD Rt. 2)

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state	n/a	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title	1. Peter Kurtze, Assistant National Register Administrator	date	November 1983
	2. Jean H. Hershberger		
organization	1. Maryland Historical Trust	telephone	(301) 269-2438
	2. Wesley Chapel Preservation Committee		
street & number	1. 21 State Circle	telephone	(301) 781-4956
	2. 6406 Taper Court		
city or town	1. Annapolis	state	Maryland 21401
	2. Sykesville		

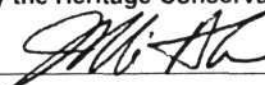
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

date 2-15-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

CARR. -167

MA6I # 0701674308

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Wesley Chapel, Methodist Episcopal Church.

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

(Rt. 26) Liberty Road

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Carroll

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED  
☒ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM  
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK  
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☒ RELIGIOUS  
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Wesley-Freedom Methodist Church

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rt. 2 Box 73

CITY, TOWN

Sykesville

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code  
21784**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE, Carroll County Office Building  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Liber #: NONE  
Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

225 North Center Street

CITY, TOWN

Westminster

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**

☐ EXCELLENT  
☒ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED DATE 1822

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

On the north side of Md. 26, commonly known as Liberty Road, and facing south sits the uncoursed stone, three-bay, front, three-bay side, one story building. The Chapel sits about sixty yards from the road among old trees and surrounding recent residences.

The gable roof is topped with asphalt shingle. All windows are 12/12, plain panes with plain trim, a wood base and a cement keystone shaped lintel painted to simulate brick.

The northern front has two windows on either side of the central, recessed double, three-ventrical panelled doors, with a single pane, glass transom. The interior arch is panelled. Trim around this door and the central window above it with closed blind shutters have the same trim as other windows. Blind shutters are on this window and the back wall only.

The southern back wall has a central, protruding, three-sided wall with a three-sided hip roof, wing with asphalt shingle cover. This apparently accommodates the chancel and altar area. This wing has two-bays of windows, one on either side of the central wall. It has open blind shutters and 12/12 panes. the entire back wall is covered with a corroding sheet of gravelled cement.

The west side wall is three-bays with a central-bay door of the same structure are the front door. An exterior, single, brick chimney, with a corbelled cap, sits towards the back of the building, the bottom half of which is covered with the same gravelled, cement to blend with the stone. The east side wall is three-bays of windows, also with a chimney of the same dimension and structure.

An eastern front corner stone reads: "Wesley Chapel  
M. E. Church  
-1822-

Freedom, Carroll County, Md.

The interior is unavailable, but nave and chancel furniture seem intact. It has a conventional plan of southern chancel, central altar and central and side aisles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1822

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The small Wesley Chapel named after the founder of Methodism, stands today abandoned, but a reminder of very early Methodist Episcopal history in the southern part of Carroll County.

There are no recorded facts of the building of Wesley Chapel, or of the early Methodist Society which erected it. In very early days, before much settlement, Indians used to come down from the Blue Ridge to the Chesapeake, on a trail which passed through the Freedom area. This was "Dorsey's Cross Roads" to Sam's Creek and on west. This trail was used as a road when the land was settled, when in the beginning of the 19th century, the Acts of the General Assembly "located" the road and named it "Liberty". The first act passed, directed that it run from Baltimore by way of Randallstown, from the latter, past certain markers and on to Libertytown in the west. In 1812, the "location" was fixed and in 1815, a company was formed to build a turnpike to Frederick and Hagerstown. In this Act we find "Freedom" first mentioned.

Throughout the latter half of the 18th century, Methodism grew at a rapid rate in the state. Congregations in Maryland were larger and stronger than most states and most had meeting houses. In 1803, because of increasing numbers of converts, a camp meeting in the woods was held 15 miles from Baltimore on the Reisterstown Road, probably in Owings Mills.

It lasted three days and nights as probably one of the first Methodist Conference Meetings in that part of the state. It was very close to Freedom, about ten to fifteen miles. By the early 1820's, the Methodist Society in this part of the county was growing and absorbing Episcopal members, and in 1821, a movement to erect a church became concrete.

The land was purchased for \$5.00 on July 20, 1821, from one Helena and John Welsh, she being the neice of one of the earliest settlers in this area, John Welsh. This land was willed to her as one of a seven part division. She conveyed only one acre to the elders. Her father had conveyed two acres to the elders of the congregation, in the 1770's to build a chapel. This was used sporadically by the Methodists, the Baptists and the Episcopalians of the area.

The land given to the Methodist congregation by Helena, was given in trust that they erect a house of worship for the use of the Methodist Episcopalians and explicitly no others. The men who built the church are not known, save for John Elder and Benjamine Forest, who built the pulpit.

The oldest grave stone bears the name John Morrow, who died in his 45th year, July 20, 1821, "the very day the land was bought it was dedicated to holy use." The stone for the church came either from the Eldersburg area or from the "Manro" farm in the Freedom area.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Wesley Chapel M.E. celebrates Centennial The Carroll County Times Sept. 29, 1922  
 Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church Shirley Livesay Sykesville  
 research paper 1954

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	Maryland	COUNTY	Carroll
STATE		COUNTY	

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE Fredi Eckhardt historic site surveyor

ORGANIZATION Carroll County Committee of the Maryland Historical Trust

DATE Jan. 1979

STREET & NUMBER 210 East Main Street

TELEPHONE 848-6494

CITY OR TOWN Westminster

STATE Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

JOHNSVILLE

MAP 68-P 45

M. 68-P 70

JOHNSTOWN

CARROLL CO. BOARD  
G84/44  
49.99  
P. 66

BARTHOLOW ROAD

MAP 68-RD  
-P 165

EDWIN A. PARRISH

231/12  
G5 T3A.  
P. 17

CARR-167  
WESLEY CHAPEL  
M.E. CHURCH,  
CARROLL COUNTY, MD.

NATIONAL REGISTER  
BOUNDARY

LIBERTY ROAD

VILLAGE PROPERTIES

T63/99  
99.52A.  
P. 58

↑ NORTH  
SCALE: 1" = 600'  
NOV., 1983

MD. RE. 26

MOST REV.  
LAWRENCE  
J. SHEHAN  
(ROMAN  
CATHOLIC  
ARCHBISHOP OF  
BALTIMORE)

758/258  
P470

MAP DIVISION

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BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21201

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WART & HURLINE  
576/352  
131.74A  
P. 94

FREEDOM

VILLAGE PROPERTIES

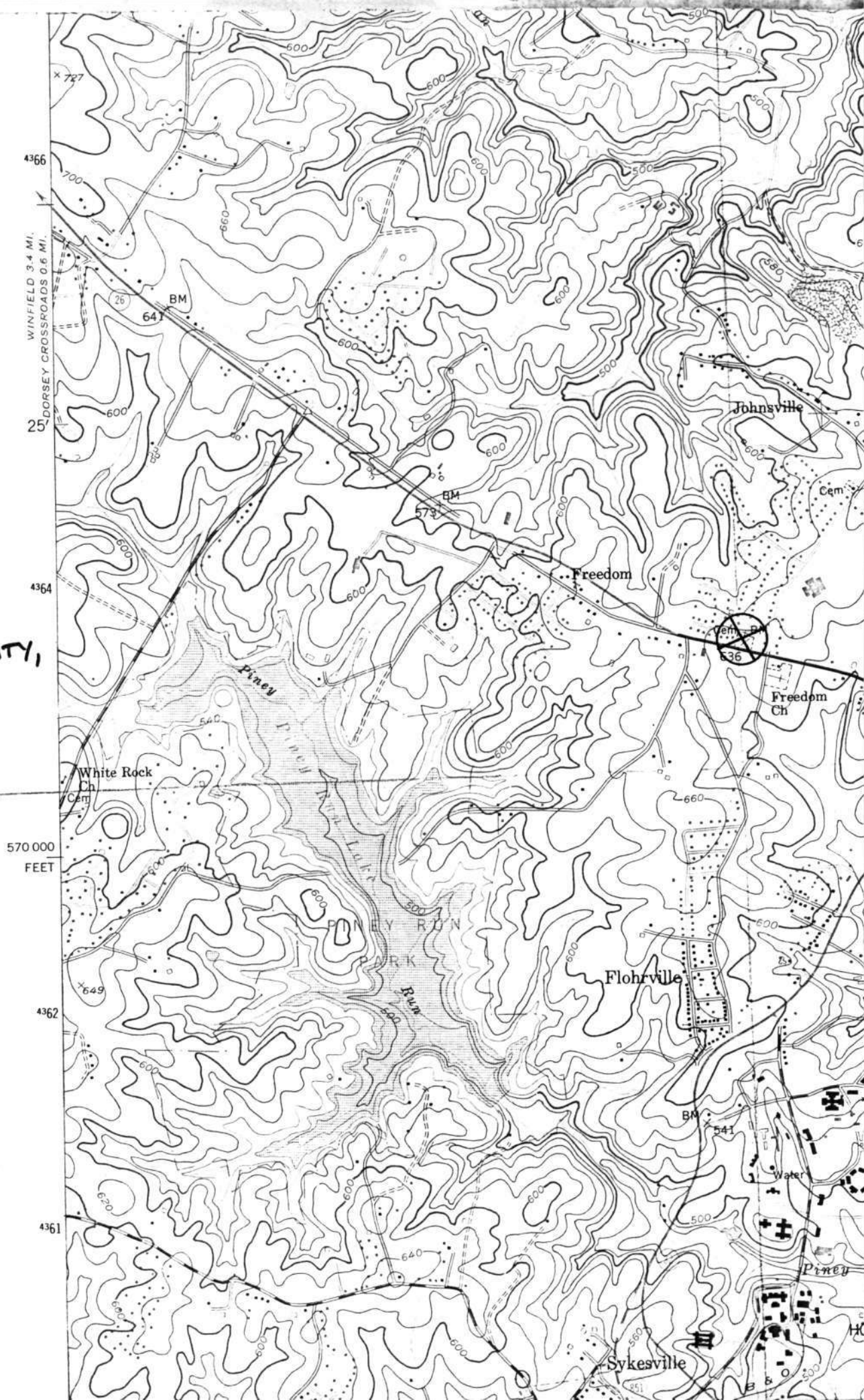
3/93  
40.00A.  
P. 225

CARR-167

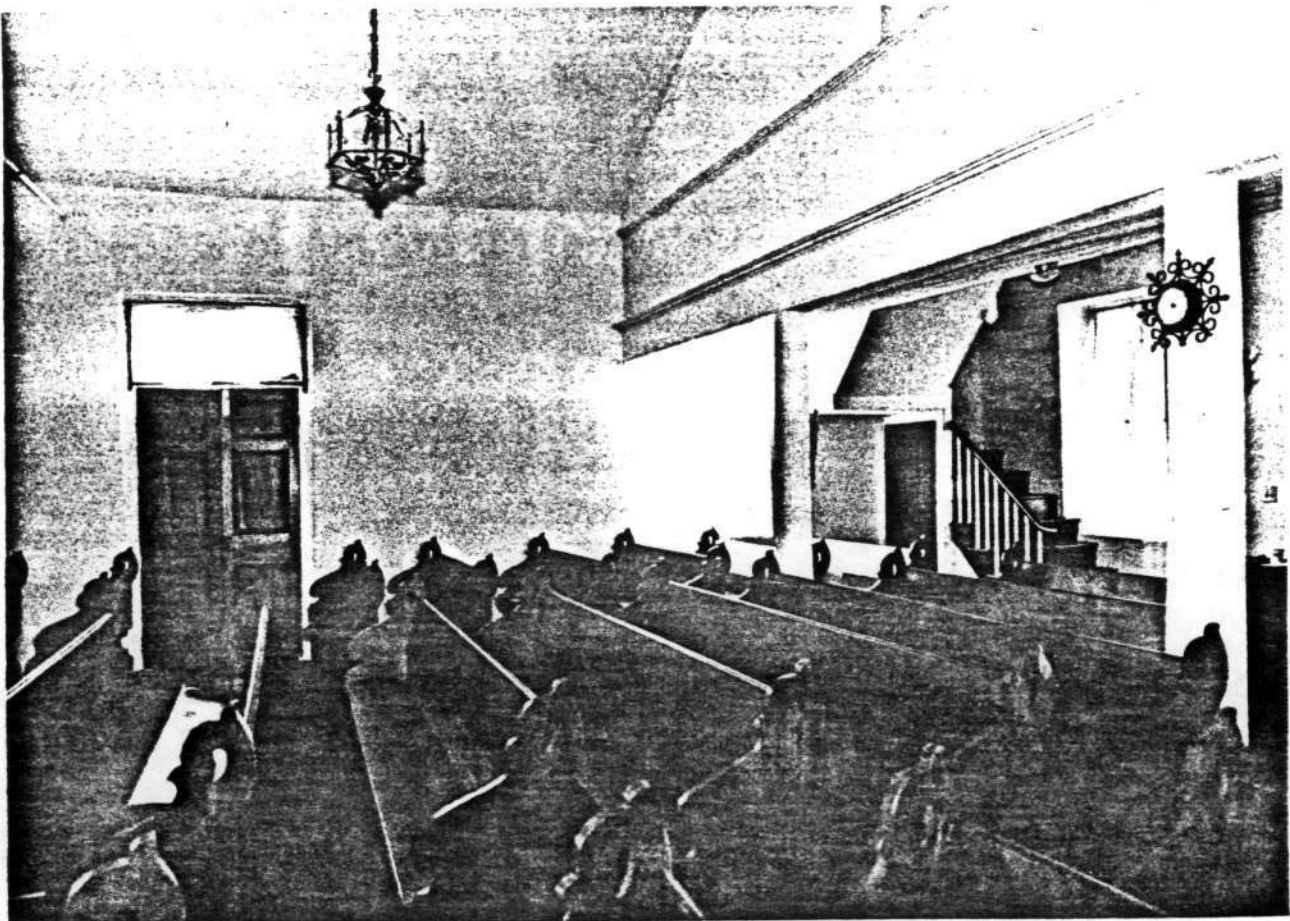
WESLEY  
CHAPEL  
M.E. CHURCH

CARROLL COUNTY,  
MARYLAND

18-331020 -  
4363610



CARR - 167

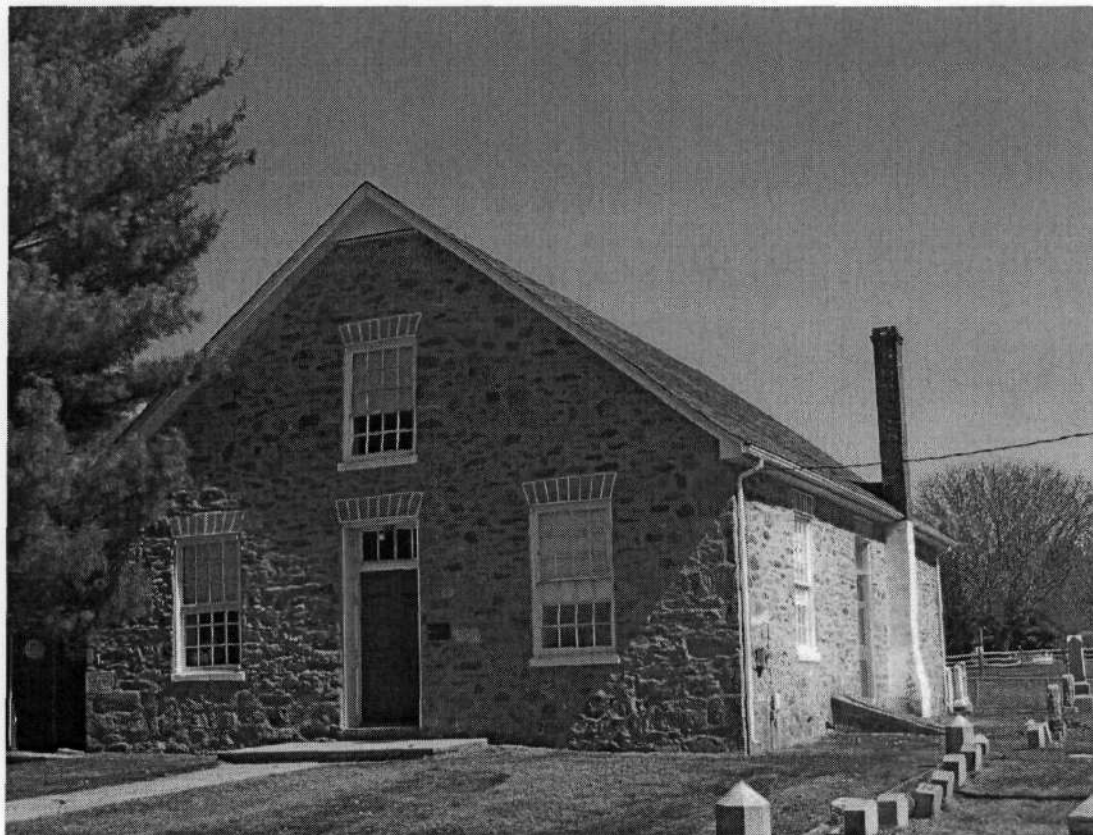


CARR-167

Wesley Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church

Liberty Road (MD 26), Eldersburg

Jennifer K. Cosham, 20 April 2006





Wesley Chapel, M.E. Church

Dec. 178

Can. - 167

Southwest corner

fredi &



Wesley Chapel, M.E. Church

Deer

Can - 167

South elevation

Arch E.